

# COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

For Immediate Release  
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### **BRAC and Beyond: Do Different Leased-Space Security Standards Make Sense?**

**What:** Government Reform Committee Oversight Hearing:  
“BRAC and Beyond: An Examination of the Rationale Behind Federal  
Security Standards for Leased Space”

**When:** WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.

**Where:** ROOM 2154, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

#### **Background:**

The BRAC process has spawned a compelling question: why has the Department of Defense (DOD) developed its own security standards for the leased space it occupies – standards that differ significantly from those used by other federal agencies?

The federal government owns or leases approximately 3.4 billion square feet of space. In light of foreign and domestic terrorist attacks against U.S. targets over the past ten years, it is imperative that we take every possible measure to secure and protect federal facilities, employees, and visitors.

On October 19, 1995, Executive Order 12977 established the Interagency Security Committee (ISC), an entity tasked with developing and evaluating security standards for federal facilities and overseeing the implementation of appropriate security measures for those sites. On September 29, 2004, the ISC approved *Security Standards for Leased Space* to address the unique aspects of securing leased properties. Despite those standards, the Pentagon created its own set of security standards for leased space. Given DOD’s membership on the ISC, it is unclear why DOD needs its own security standards separate from those developed by the ISC. **Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that DOD not only developed its own leased space criteria that are inconsistent with the ISC standards, but it used its standards to justify arbitrary recommendations to the**

**Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission, including vacating a significant percentage of its leased space.**

**Given the government's reliance on leased space, particularly in the National Capital Region, and the unique challenges of securing privately owned space, the Committee is interested in learning more about the development and implementation of security standards for leased space.** The Committee will evaluate the different leased space standards and how they are implemented by agencies. The Committee will hear from Congressman Jim Moran (VA-8) and three agencies that have been actively involved in the development and implementation of security standards for leased space: (1) DHS, which chairs the ISC; (2) GSA, the former chair of the ISC and a leasing agent for other federal agencies; and (3) DOD, a member of the ISC that developed its own security standards and has leasing authority.

**Witnesses:**

**Panel I**

**Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA)**

**Panel II**

**Dwight M. Williams**, Chief Security Officer, Department of Homeland Security

**F. Joseph Moravec**, Commissioner of Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration

**Department of Defense witness to be determined.**

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